

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Taiwan

**Post:** Taipei

### **Actions Taken Regarding Food Imports from Japan**

**Report Categories:**

Trade Policy Incident Report

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**Report Highlights:**

**General Information:**

On March 25, 2011, Taiwan's Department of Health (DOH) announced the suspension of food imports effective March 26, 2011, from five prefectures near a Japanese nuclear power plant that has leaked radiation following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. The five prefectures are Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma and Chiba.

The term "food" refers to all food items contained in Chapters 1 through 24 of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) and other industrial commodities intended for food ingredient use such as salt, egg albumin, and egg white. Importers of Japanese food products are required to report the place of production down to the prefecture level in the "Code of Manufacturer" block on the "Food and Relevant Products Inspection" import application form.

DOH's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is the implementing agency. Any additional or relaxation of the current actions on Japanese food imports or any change on the list of products subject to elevated scrutiny will be announced by the FDA.

Japanese food products from outside the afore-mentioned 5 prefectures but fall under the 8 categories of concern are subject to batch-by-batch import inspection for radiation. The eight categories are: fresh or chilled fruit/vegetables; frozen fruit/vegetables; fresh or chilled seafood; frozen seafood; dairy products; food for infant use; mineral water or drinking water; and seaweed products. Japanese processed/packaged foods that are manufactured after March 12, 2011, are subject to increased inspection/testing for radiation. If radiation is detected at levels above Taiwan's current tolerance levels, the batch will be denied entry. FDA will also oversee the destruction of the non-compliant products.

Taiwan's current tolerance levels are:

|                 | Dairy products & baby food | Other foods |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| I-131           | 55 Bq/kg                   | 300 Bq/kg   |
| Cs-134 + Cs-137 | 370Bq/kg                   | 370 Bq/kg   |

There is no standard for Plutonium and there has been no detection of it on food imported from Japan. Should there be any positive finding of Plutonium, the Taiwan authorities will review case-by-case for possible action.